

**Meeting Date:** May 16-18, 2007

**Agenda Item No. 13**

**Agenda Item:** 2007 Early Goose, Dove, and Sandhill  
Crane Seasons

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** Tom Hemker

**Background:**

Early goose, sandhill crane, and dove seasons are set in the spring to allow permits to be issued during the summer and seasons to open as early as September 1. Idaho's 2007 crane harvest allocation as directed by the Pacific Flyway Council RMP Crane Plan is 306 similar to the 336 in 2006. Harvest in 2006 was 236.

**Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:**

These seasons are generally used to manage problem goose populations and allow harvest of cranes that nest in Idaho before migration begins. Crane depredation on grain crops is a problem in some areas. The dove season is the earliest allowed by treaty and is unchanged since 1988.

**Public Involvement Process:**

The Upper Snake and Southeast regions issued news releases and held open houses concerning sandhill crane seasons. The Southeast Region met with grain farmers impacted by crane depredation in Caribou County.

**Justification:**

Crane hunting continues to be popular and early goose seasons are unnecessary with the recently extended 107-day regular goose hunting season. The proposed dove season is the earliest and most liberal allowed by federal frame work.

**Action Requested:**

Set the 2007 crane and early goose seasons as recommended. Continue the current dove season.

**Staff Recommendations:**

The Department's recommendations are:

- Do not offer any early goose seasons. The regular goose season is expected to be 107 days statewide and should provide adequate harvest of resident Canada geese.
- Adopt the sandhill crane season as follows with a daily limit of 2 and a season limit of 9. The first tag is offered through a standard controlled-hunt drawing and the other 8 are available at any vendor as left-over tags.

Hunt Area	Season	Permits
Caribou and Bear Lake counties	9/1-15	300
Teton County	9/1-7	40
“	9/8-15	40
Fremont County	9/1-7	40
“	9/8-15	40
Bonneville County	9/1-7	10
“	9/8-15	10
Jefferson County	9/1-7	10
“	9/8-15	10

- No change to the mourning dove season, which is 9/1-30 and a bag of 10 and 20.